

## Mississippian Sets Stage For Ohio Mission Work

Dwight Massengill, of Rienzi, Miss., Master of Divinity student at Southwestern Seminary, spent last summer starting a new Southern Baptist church in Powhatan Point, Ohio.

Powhatan Point is a coal mining town of 3,000. The sponsoring church for the new mission is First Baptist Church, Woodfield, where the pastor is Tommy Mills, native of Waynesboro, Miss.



Massengill and Mills

Massengill took different Christians with him to give them experience in witnessing and door-to-door surveying. It took three weeks to survey every house in Powhatan Point.

The first week he started a Tuesday night Bible Study in the home of a former alcoholic and bartender who had accepted Christ prior to his coming. Then he learned of a Negro church that had been closed about two years, acquired access to it, cleaned it and started having worship services there even before the electrical power was turned on.

The first service was a prayer meeting with four in attendance. The first Sunday 18 came to Sunday School and 21 for worship. The following week Massengill preached a revival and showed two films, "The Believer's Heaven" and "The Burning Hell." The church grew week by week and had an all time high of 55 in Sunday School and 60 in worship on the seventh Sunday. Many professions of faith were recorded, according to Massengill.

Massengill left Aug. 10 to drive to Mississippi to be in revivals, but flew back two more weekends to preach in (Continued on page 2)

## Smith To Meet With Jews To Foster Understanding

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP)—Bailey Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will fly to New York City Dec. 18 for a meeting with representatives of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Smith wrote to Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the ADL, asking for a meeting to "foster understanding" after controversy erupted over his published remarks concerning the Jews.

The pastor, who expressed "deep regret for the hurt that may have come by remarks credited to me," at first suggested Dallas as the meeting site, but Perlmutter asked Smith to come to either New York City or Chicago.

Smith set off controversy when, on separate occasions, he said God does

not hear the prayer of a Jew, and then said Jews have "funny looking noses."

Perlmutter also suggested each bring several "associates" because a "modestly broadened interchange would be useful."

Smith said he plans to take Bill Bryan, the church administrator at First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, and perhaps another person or two, possibly Glenn Igleheart, director of the Department of Interfaith Witness at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, assigned responsibility for establishing and maintaining relationships with Jewish people.

Smith said he looks forward to a "warm meeting," saying it is "absolutely necessary. People can take a few quotes out of context and create an image (of me) that simply is not true."

## At Christmas, The Question Is: What Difference Will It Make?

By Carolyn Weatherford  
BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—We drove for almost two hours on the newly paved two-lane highway from the capital city of Lome, Togo, to the growing industrial town of Tobligbo. We had been delayed, and it became evident that we would not arrive home before dark.

Libby — Panter, missionary homemaker, was uneasy. As darkness came, I experienced a new understanding of what it means that "countless people grope in darkness."

Only when we drove through a village were we able to see any light. Villagers clustered along the highway, passing time, sharing light. The little tin can oil lamps produced only a small glow, but again I thought of the Scripture, "and the darkness did not put it out."

## Church Gifts Run Ahead Of Budget

With 11 months of the year gone by, the missions giving for Mississippi Baptists is ahead of the budget for the year to date.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said that total Cooperative Program gifts for the first 11 months of the year have amounted to \$10,351,353. This is to be compared with a budget figure for the 11 months of \$10,309,750.

This is in spite of the fact that November ended on Sunday, Kelly pointed out. When this happens many churches do not have an opportunity to get to the Convention Board offices the missions gifts for the entire month.

Even so, gifts for the year-to-date are \$1,131,687 more than for the same period of last year and \$41,003 above the budget for the date, he noted.

The total Cooperative Program gifts from Mississippi Baptists for November of this year were \$707,990. Compared with the \$666,318 in gifts for November of last year, this was a decrease of 18.3 percent. It must be remembered, however, that November of this year ended on Sunday and November of last year ended on Friday, Kelly said.

"The 1980 budget is the largest in the history of the Mississippi Baptist Convention," Kelly noted, "and there is every indication that it will be met." He added, "This is the stuff that Bold Missions is made of, and Mississippi will be doing its share."

"Inflation has pushed up the price of doing missions work all over the world—in the U.S. and abroad. We must meet this challenge if we are to be faithful to our Master's commission," Kelly said.

But the darkness did little to cool that hot, sticky October evening. I could hardly wait for the refreshing glass of iced tea that this Mississippi missionary surely would fix.

Then I remembered. The Panter have electricity only two hours a day, hardly enough time to freeze ice. Libby had explained their running water, which came from one faucet in town, was brought to the Panter's home on the heads of local women hired to "run the water."

Finally, we arrived in Tobligbo and turned left only a clay road. In the distance I could see the lights of the cement plant, a huge international concern that was causing the growth in the Tobligbo area. Then we made another left turn, and we were on the road to the missionary home.

On both sides of the two-rut road the grass was higher than a man's head. At the end of the road was the recently completed Panter home. Danny and the three children ran to welcome us, and I felt at home.

Everybody helped Libby take the ice box from the back of the station wagon. Other missionaries in Lome had shared, from their abundant electricity, the best surprise—ice!

We visited awhile, then Danny told me to finish all necessary preparations for bed, because the generator

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## In Nine Key Areas

# SBC Church Projections Show Increases For 1980

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A record increase in baptisms and projected gains in all nine key church program areas point to 1980 as a year of success for the Southern Baptist Convention.

The increases mark turnarounds in ongoing enrollment for church training, Sunday School and Woman's Missionary Union, all of which have been experiencing enrollment declines.

Some 429,580 baptisms are predicted for 1980, an increase of 60,842, or 16.5 percent, over the 1978 total of 368,738. The predicted number of baptisms puts the total back over 400,000 for the first time since 1975 and for only the 10th time in the 135-year history of the nation's largest protestant denomination.

The projections are based on statistics compiled by the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The data are taken from the Uniform Church Letter, submitted by nearly every one of the approximately 35,000 congregations affiliated with the SBC.

While the projections—based on 72 percent of the Uniform Church Letters—are approximate, Martin Bradley, head of the research services department, said in all likelihood they will be very close to the final tabulations, expected to be released in February of 1981.

Southern Baptist churches are projected to increase spending for missions by more than \$44 million, or 12.4 percent, making the estimated 1980 total \$400,377,558.

Total receipts in the Southern Baptist Convention are projected to increase by more than a quarter of a billion dollars. The 11.9 percent projected increase will bring the total giving figure to \$2,496,509,936.

The 1980 projected increase for church membership is 1.7 percent, representing a gain of 227,444. This will bring total membership in the Southern Baptist Convention to slightly more than 13.6 million persons.

Mississippi statistics look good. Details of church responses will be in next week's issue.

After a small gain last year, the ongoing enrollment for Brotherhood is projected to increase by 4.0 percent, or 18,773, to a 1980 total of more than 488,000. This increase is the largest since 1971 for the Memphis-based agency.

James H. Smith, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, said he attributes the increase in Brother- (Continued on page 2)



## Bible Study Preview

Bob Simmons, missionary to the Philippines, leads in a study preview for leaders who will be teaching the January Bible Study in their churches next month. Subject of the study is "Philippians: Rejoice in the Lord." A total of 70 persons re-

## Baptists Involve Selves In Italy Disaster Work

By Susan Cahen

ROME (BP)—Hunger and relief funds sent by Southern Baptists to aid victims of Italy's Nov. 23 earthquake will be used to provide food, clothing and semi-permanent housing, Southern Baptist missionary Stanley Crabb said.

Southern Baptist missionaries and Italian Baptists, using churches as collection points, have amassed truckloads of clothing and foodstuffs to distribute to victims of one of Italy's worst natural disasters.

Crabb reported supplies have poured in and missionaries have had great freedom of movement in the stricken area to distribute the supplies to those left homeless by the devastating quake. Six truckloads of goods are on their way from Baptists in Austria.

Two days after the catastrophe, the

entrance hall of the Baptist Mass Media Center was filled with incoming goods. The Federation of Evangelical Churches, made up of Methodists, Waldensians, Lutherans and Baptists, sent two trucks to help move relief supplies to the south. A large tent used in evangelistic revivals was set up in Senerchia. Southern Baptist missionary Marylu Moore, currently overseeing relief efforts there, arrived in that little town before other relief workers, even before the military, Crabb said.

The tent at Senerchia will be Baptists' main distribution point and will remain there for three months. The tent is manned 24 hours a day by doctors and nurses.

Crabb cited numerous examples of people helping in the relief effort, both on their own and assisting Baptists in theirs. A Christian radio programmer gave Baptists a truckload of milk and the Ford Motor Co. lent them three trucks to use for a week to distribute what eventually became six truckloads of goods.

The U.S. military from a nearby base provided helicopters to transport goods and gave 100 tents to be used for temporary housing.

Crabb said he expects housing to be the most pressing need in future work with the victims. He and missionary Bob Holifield planned a three-to-four day survey trip to visit all the Baptist churches in the area as well as the tent in Senerchia to determine immediate and future needs of the people and what Baptists can do to contribute to the rehabilitative work. Immediate needs for clothing have been met and there have been reports of the homeless burning clothing for warmth.

Baptists will probably concentrate their future efforts on some sort of prefabricated housing, Crabb surmised. Some 250,000 persons were left homeless in this poorest section of Italy, an area of seven million persons living in many small, old towns.

Thirty of these towns were leveled, Crabb reported, and others 70 to 80 percent destroyed with the remaining 20 to 30 percent requiring major repairs. Although the government has officially listed only about 3,000 confirmed deaths, Crabb believes the death toll will go much higher.

So far he knows only one Baptist was (Continued on page 2)

## Daughtry Moves To Pastorate

Cornell Daughtry is resigning the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's department of Student Work as Baptist Student Union director at Mississippi Delta Junior College, Moorhead, to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Indiana.

A native of Memphis, Daughtry has been at Moorhead since 1972. Prior to that he was pastor of North Winona Baptist Church, 1962-72; Wallerville Baptist Church, Union County, 1958-62; Unity and Red Lick Baptist Churches, Jefferson County, 1956-57.

Daughtry is a graduate of Mississippi College and of New Orleans Seminary.

His wife is the former Shelby Conner of Ripley. They have three children.

## Haire To Leave Stewardship

Joel Haire is leaving the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board after one year as consultant in the department of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion.

Haire, a native of Lafayette Springs, will begin in January as pastor of First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs, where he has been serving as interim pastor.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He came to the convention board from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, West Point, where he served for 10 years.

Earlier pastorates include First Baptist Church, Water Valley, 1964-69; Ridgeland Baptist Church, Ridgeland, 1960-64; Thompson Baptist Church, Amite County, 1959-60; and Pleasant Grove, Grenada County, and Duncan Hill, Amite County, both in 1957-58.

Haire and his wife, the former Mary Woods of Jackson, have two children.

## Health Department Blocks Haitian Food Distribution

By Patti Stephenson

MIAMI, Fla. (BP)—Efforts to feed hundreds of Haitian refugees in the Liberty City section of Miami have been hampered by health department regulations.

Plans to serve meals from a disaster relief van operated by the Louisiana Baptist Convention were scotched when health inspectors refused to grant a permit allowing the van to hook into the facilities at French Speaking Baptist Church, one of the largest Haitian congregations in Miami.

The converted tractor-trailer rig, which has been used to serve thousands of meals in disaster-stricken areas, arrived in Miami on Nov. 17. Its three-man crew—Cal Jones, Paul Carroll and Clarence Filippi, all members of Horseshoe Drive Baptist Church in Alexandria, La.—spent five days preparing the site and waiting for health department clearance.

Health department officials had foreseen no problems with the project before the team's arrival, said Milton

Leach, director of Southern Baptist refugee resettlement and relief efforts in Miami.

"They thought the van would fit into the same category as the mobile vending units which operate in Miami," Leach reported. After their inspection, however, officials ruled the van would have to meet requirements for a per-

The Home Mission Board is "urgently" asking for help in locating churches and individuals for sponsorship of refugees. Cubans and Haitians in Miami awaiting sponsorship number 3,000 cases. There are 5,000 Cubans at Ft. Chaffee, Ark., and 168,000 Indonesians in East Asia waiting.

For further information, contact Richard Alford, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board language missions consultant, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or write directly to the Refugee Resettlement Unit, 2715 Peachtree Road, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30305.

manent installation, including having a separate sewer system.

"Everyone mutually agreed that it just wasn't feasible," Leach said. The "disappointed" Louisiana expedition headed home Nov. 21.

The next morning Leach met with seven Haitian pastors. "They were determined to find a way to feed these refugees," Leach said. The pastors hammered out a plan to serve meals at three churches: French Speaking Baptist, Haitian Evangelical Baptist and Bethanie Baptist. Three of them agreed to recruit volunteers to cook and serve meals, register refugees and dispense tracts.

The number of meals served will depend on response at each church. "Each church will contribute \$20 a week, together with \$160 a month from the Home Mission Board Christian Social Ministries Department, to have two workers overseeing the project daily," Leach said.

Food has been donated by Food For The Hungry, a non-profit hunger relief organization. Forty thousand pounds (Continued on page 3)



# SBC Church Projections

(Continued from page 1)

hood enrollment "in large part to the leadership of state Brotherhood directors and to the renewed interest of pastors in involving their men and boys in missions."

Church music enrollment is projected to show an increase for the 15th consecutive year in 1980 to a new high of more than 1.5 million. The increase of 4.1 percent represents 60,097 persons.

LeRoy McClard, supervisor of the growth program design section in the Sunday School Board's church music department, attributes the gain "to the dedicated work of state music secretaries in reporting enrollment and in

## Vietnamese And Laotian Language Studies Ready

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board will release in late 1981 the first Sunday School materials in the Vietnamese and Laotian languages.

Six Laotian and Vietnamese Southern Baptists and officials from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board held a three-day meeting in Nashville to review proposals and finalize plans for 14 sessions of Sunday School materials in each language.

The materials will be published for the approximately 120,000 Laotians and 250,000 Vietnamese living in the United States.

Oscar Romo, director of the Home Mission Board language missions division, said studies of Baptist work among language groups have shown that three factors generally influence success or failure: availability of leaders from the language group; ability of Southern Baptists to penetrate the group with a gospel having a sound theological base; and the availability of Christian material in that language.

Southern Baptist congregations worship in 77 languages.

Korean will be the next language in which materials will be developed but no target date has been set for their release. The Sunday School Board has been producing materials in Spanish for about three years.

## Luther Rice, Criswell Center Talks Close

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—Merger talks between Luther Rice Seminary and Criswell Center for Biblical Studies officially were ended by regents of the Jacksonville-based Luther Rice at their Dec. 4 meeting.

Nine of the 11 regents approved a report of a special three-man committee that merger discussions with the Dallas-based Bible school be terminated and that "good will and respect" continue between the two schools.

Paige Patterson, who is both a regent of the Jacksonville school and president of the Dallas college, was not present for the meeting, nor did he cast a vote, according to Luther Rice president Robert Witty.

When asked why merger discussions were terminated, Witty said: "The regents considered the reasons for the terminations of the talks to be totally internal to Luther Rice Seminary."

He added the school, which has 250 resident students and "about 4,000" external, or correspondence students, currently is seeking graduate and undergraduate accreditation "of both the external and internal systems."

The school is seeking accreditation through the American Association of Bible Colleges, and is planning to apply to the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and in Canada in 1982, Witty said.

Witty added the merger discussions were "blown out of proportion. It has been a friendly discussion. We have never done anything more than just talk."

## Sets Stage

(Continued from page 1)

Powhatan Point before going back to Southwestern to complete his last year. The mission church has

helping to establish music work in the newly developing areas." McClard is a member of the interim management team in the department.

Ongoing WMU enrollment is projected to increase by 15,215, or 1.4 percent, marking the first increase for the auxiliary of the SBC since 1976 and the largest numerical gain since 1975. The estimated increase will bring the total WMU enrollment to 1.1 million.

"WMU leaders have been deeply concerned about the decline in membership, and have worked hard to turn the tide," said Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the WMU, Birmingham, Ala. "Specifically, importance has been placed on involving more people in missions, pastors' support has been stronger, better reporting has been encouraged and more ethnic women are involved in missions. We are encouraged and excited about the increase."

The anticipated gain of 1.3 percent in Sunday School enrollment comes on the heels of three straight years of losses for the largest program of the denomination. This increase represents more than 95,000 persons and puts the

Sunday morning program back above the 7.4 million mark.

Sunday School department head Harry M. Piland expressed a sense of gratitude and encouragement in what he perceives to be a clear change of direction. "This provides a running start to the attainment of the Sunday School goal of 8.5 million enrolled in Sunday School by 1985. I honestly believe our churches are doing the basics so necessary to reach and win people to Christ and help them grow and mature."

The anticipated gain of 2.3 percent in church training enrollment—an increase of 40,297—marks the program's highest numerical increase since 1961, and brings participation to 1.79 million.

Roy Edgemon, secretary of the board's church training department, said, "I am thankful to God that church training is experiencing significant growth following a 1.3 percent decrease in 1979. Equipping Centers, Ephesians 4 Conferences and the dedication of state church training leaders and pastors all contributed to the increase."

### ESTIMATED 1980 SBC STATISTICS

	1979 Total	Estimated 1979-80 % Change	1980 Total	1979-80 Numerical Change
Baptisms	368,738	16.5	429,580	60,842
Church Membership	13,379,073	1.7	13,606,517	227,444
Ongoing Sunday School enrollment	7,317,960	1.3	7,413,093	95,133
Ongoing Church Training enrollment	1,752,026	2.3	1,792,323	40,297
Ongoing Church Music enrollment	1,465,774	4.1	1,525,871	60,097
Ongoing WMU enrollment	1,086,785	1.4	1,102,000	15,215
Ongoing Brotherhood enrollment	469,315	4.0	488,068	18,753
Mission Expenditures	\$ 356,207,790	12.4 %	\$ 400,377,556	\$ 44,169,766
Total Receipts	\$2,222,082,159	11.9 %	\$2,486,509,936	\$264,427,777

## November Gift Decline Attributed To Calendar

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Contributions to Southern Baptists' national Cooperative Program dipped one percent in November, a decline that can be primarily attributed to the calendar.

Undesignated receipts totaled \$5,927,447 in November, or \$54,158 less than in November 1979. But Tim Hedquist, director of financial planning for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, says holiday mail delays and the last Sunday falling on the month's final day prevented all receipts from reaching Nashville in time to be counted in the November totals.

Despite the decline, undesignated gifts for the first two months of the fiscal year total \$11,778,314, or 7.5 percent ahead of the same period last year.

Meanwhile, designated contributions continued their vigorous climb. Money earmarked for special purposes increased 30 percent over November 1979, to \$950,071. For the first two months of the fiscal year, designated gifts are 85.4 percent ahead of last year.

Total undesignated and designated gifts are up \$2,094,185, or 16.8 percent, over last year.

## Woman Named State Baptist Convention President—4th Ever

Beverly McLeroy, 37, of Las Vegas, was named president of the Nevada Baptist Convention in a special called meeting of the convention's executive board after the president, Adrian Hall, also of Las Vegas, resigned to join the professional staff of the state convention.

McLeroy was elected vice president of the newest convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention at the annual meeting in Las Vegas Oct. 27-29.

She is the wife of Jim McLeroy pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Las Vegas, and has been a member of the 12-person executive board since January 1979.

## Mrs. McEachern Dies In Eupora

Mrs. Josie McEachern of Eupora died Sunday, Dec. 7, at the age of 90. Mrs. McEachern was the originator of the Every Family Budget Plan of subscriptions, first used by the Baptist Record in 1936, while A. L. Goodrich was editor, and later also put into use by other state Baptist papers.

The funeral service was Tuesday, Dec. 9, at 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church, Eupora, where she was a member. Bill Stewart, pastor, officiated.

Since last year she had been living at Eupora Health Center. She was born in 1890 at Lodi in Webster County, daughter of Martha Jane and John Sorrell, and was the last survivor of a family of

## Italy Disaster

(Continued from page 1)

killed—a woman in San Gregori Magno. When a truckload of goods arrived in that town on the Friday following the quake, they found the Baptist church building 70 percent destroyed and unusable but still standing. They located one of the elders of the church and gave him the truckload of clothing to distribute to the people who had moved outside the town.

A survivor was found in the town the day before, Crabb said, seven days after the quake. The woman had taken food and crawled into a cedar chest when the first shocks of the quake



## Annuitants' Fellowship

New officer of the Mississippi Annuitants' Fellowship are Gordon Sansing, Meridian, president; Mrs. Maude Womack, Jackson, secretary-treasurer; and Curtis Beard, Jackson, vice president.

## Skene And Rock River Set Partnership For God

By Rita (Mrs. R.M.) Bostick, Jr.

On October 1 the First Baptist Church of Rock River, Wyoming, saw the fulfillment of Philipians 4:19: "My God will supply all your needs..." God used a partnership between the Rock River Church and Skene Baptist Church, Skene, Miss., to supply those needs.

In 1973 Roger Bostick, now pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rock River, was a farm fuel supply owner-salesman in Benoit, Miss. Feeling God's call into full time Christian service, he sold his part of the fuel business.

In June of 1978, after a year in seminary and two years as an associate missionary in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Bostick felt led to the pioneer mission area of the Northern Plains. Working through the Home Mission Board's Christian Service Corps, Bostick and his wife were called by the Rock River church, a church with four members and one woman awaiting baptism.

A year after the Bosticks moved to Rock River the members of Skene Baptist Church, many of whom had bought fuel from Bostick, were led to send monthly support to the Rock River church. James Stanford, chairman of deacons, phoned to offer the support.

With a congregation of about 16 people, half of them teenagers, a building fund was started. As the church grew the need for land for more classrooms became obvious, since the church is on a twenty-five foot lot. Bostick talked to the owners of the property on each side of the church. Neither was interested in selling, and the price of land in the energy corridor of Wyoming seemed beyond the church's income. Bostick felt it was

wrong to lead the church into debt because of the population turnover in the area. But the Skene building fund was growing.

In January of this year Bostick found out "by accident" that an adjacent house and lots were being foreclosed, to be repossessed by a loan company. Later they were turned over to the Veterans Administration, who held the mortgage.

The church wanted only the lots between the house and church, but the church's lawyer offered little hope of the VA selling the lots without the house. At each Tuesday night Bible study the church began praying for God's will and leadership regarding the lots. They asked the people at Skene and Benoit to pray.

Step by step the lots were made available. God moved men's minds and changed decisions. Contributions to buy the lots came from individuals at Skene Baptist Church and the regular contribution of the Skene church, from the Bosticks' "home church" in Benoit and from the Rock River congregation.

Final papers were signed on October 1. Sunday, October 12, was Praise Sunday. A sign put on the lots reads, "Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Skene Baptist Church."

Through the partnership of a rural church in the Mississippi Delta and a small, struggling church in the pioneer mission area in Wyoming, God made the impossible a reality. God supplied a need.

## What Difference

(Continued from page 1)

That home will become more than just a place to live. It will become office, gathering place, hotel for visitors from the United States or for missionaries from other stations. It will become a center for sharing Christ with local people.

## BWA Asks For Relief

WASHINGTON (BP)—An urgent appeal for \$100,000 to help earthquake stricken Italy has been issued by Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

In the wake of the killer earthquake in southern Italy, the BWA sent \$10,000 to the Baptist Union of Italy for emergency relief.

The spokesman said contributions to the emergency fund will be sent directly to the Baptist Union of Italy for immediate relief.

Also, Italian and Austrian Baptists have joined with Southern Baptist missionaries and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to provide disaster and hunger relief aid. The Foreign Mission Board sent \$15,000 in hunger funds and \$15,000 in disaster relief funds immediately after the quake struck Nov. 23.

Contributions should be sent to the Baptist World Alliance office, 1628 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

## Texas Church Sets Gift

## Record In SBC

MIDLAND, Texas (BP)—First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas, has become the first in the Southern Baptist Convention to contribute more than a half million dollars through the convention's Cooperative Program.

Its gifts of \$501,285 for the first 11 months of the year comprise approximately 1/69th of the \$34.6 million unified missions budget for 3,900 Texas Baptist churches. The church, with 4,000 resident members, also led the Southern Baptist Convention in Cooperative Program giving last year with contributions of \$410,000.

First Baptist, Midland, earmarked 29 percent of its \$1.75 million budget during 1980 for the Cooperative Program and the 1981 budget of \$2.03 million calls for 30 percent to be given through the Cooperative Program.

## "Village View" Shows Percent Error

In "The Village View," the monthly newsletter of The Baptist Children's Village for December, which was published as a part of last week's edition of The Baptist Record, a major typographical error appeared in the "open letter" which Executive Director Paul N. Nunnery addressed to the Baptists of Mississippi. As a part of this letter, Nunnery reported that response to the Village's annual HOLIDAY FUND appeal to Dec. 1, 1980 had amounted to only one-half of gifts received to that same appeal by Dec. 1 of last year. In the next sentence, which should have reported that the 1980 gifts totaled only eight (8%) percent of the Village's minimum, annual food needs, the figure 80% was erroneously inserted.

The error occurred in the offices of The Baptist Children's Village, and the Village offices have requested that this correction be brought to the attention of interested Baptists, because of the enormity of the error and the urgency of the appeal.



## How well do you know him?

Jesus. He's your Savior, your Lord. You've committed your life to him. But, do you know him as well as you could?

You can get to know him better by watching "At Home with the Bible." This award-winning program, produced by the Sunday School Board in cooperation with the Radio and Television Commission, has begun a brand new 26 week series exploring the life of Jesus. Each new program will bring you deeper insights into our Lord's teachings, miracles, and ministry. Outstanding Bible teacher Frank Pollard will cast new light on familiar Scripture passages; counselor and author John Drakeford will offer sound advice on problems you face in your daily life; and every week you'll thrill to the stirring music of talented musicians A Joyful Sound and Bill and Jeanine Walker.

Discover more about Jesus. Watch "At Home with the Bible," better than ever in its new season.

## "At Home with the Bible"

Jackson  
Sunday, 8:00 AM  
WAPT-TV, Ch. 16



## Missionaries On Furlough

Missionaries now on furlough in Mississippi are:

Mary, Frank Kirkpatrick, Liberia, Box 94, Noxapater; Ronald and Sue Ballard, Paraguay, Box 3511, Meridian; Byron and Dora Harbin, South Brazil, 111 St. Joseph St., Hattiesburg; Rachel Dubard, Liberia, Rt. 1, Box 67, Carrollton; John and Fonce McFadden, Nigeria, 2502 Bryan, Tupelo; Steven and Minnie Hicks, Mexico, 407 N. 38th Ave., Hattiesburg; James and Carolyn McAtee, Indonesia, 919 Reaves St., Jackson;

Bobby and Mary Simmons, Philippines, 715 E. Northside Drive, Jackson; Charles and Indy Whitten, Canary Islands, Pine Trails Townhouses, Spring Ridge Road, Clinton; Mary Alice Ditsworth, Indonesia, 4610 Orchard Road, Pascagoula; Thomas and Sandy Warrington, Costa Rica, 1604 Woody Drive, Jackson; Danny and Libby Panter, Togo, 416 Ford St., Columbia; Dot Lott, South Brazil, 606 Greymont Ave., Hattiesburg; Ralph and Gena Calcote, Japan, Rt. 1, Box 118, Wesson.

John and Kathy McNair, Spain, c/o Mr. Sam McNair, Route 1, Box 173, Magee, MS 39111.

Jerald and Elaine Perrill are to arrive from Thailand in December. James and Dorothy Gilbert are to arrive from Ecuador in January, 1981.

**Accra, Ghana**—The Ghana Baptist Convention has dedicated a new Twi language hymnal. Carolyn Houts, Southern Baptist music missionary from Missouri, spent two years compiling 175 local songs and standard hymns.

## BSU Award Goes To Miles

Ivan E. Miles recently received the 1980 Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Mississippi State Baptist Student Union.



Miles served as president of the Baptist Student Union in 1980 while a student at Mississippi State University. He lives in Starkville and is a retired agronomist. Since retirement, he and Mrs. Miles have served two tours as agricultural missionary volunteers to South India.

He is a deacon at First Baptist Church, Starkville, where he also teaches a Sunday School class at the Starkville Manor nursing home. Lewis Townsend, Columbus, was chosen as the new president at the alumni meeting. Other officers are: Ms. Peggy Shoff, Jackson, vice-president; Calvin Kelly, McCool, secretary; Sharon Nobles, Starkville, treasurer. Board members are Joe Armour, Clarksdale; Warren Rowe, Jackson; Janice Allen, Tupelo; James Moak, Starkville; R. M. Hough, Columbus; and Bobby Brown, Jackson.

Miles served as president of the Baptist Student Union in 1980 while a student at Mississippi State University. He lives in Starkville and is a retired agronomist. Since retirement, he and Mrs. Miles have served two tours as agricultural missionary volunteers to South India.

## Mississippians Named To Home Missions Posts

**ATLANTA**—James and Paulette Kellum of Memphis, Tenn., and Steve and Deidra Morse of New Orleans, La., have been appointed missionary associates by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

They were among 35 persons approved for missions service by the Home Mission Board board of directors during their fall meeting.

The Kellums will serve in Memphis where he will be a consultant for the HMB language missions department. They served as missionaries with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board from 1971 to 1980 in Vietnam and the Philippines. They have also served



## CT Associates Meet In Kentucky

Representing Mississippi at a simultaneous meeting of state youth church training associates held at Barren River State Park, Lucas, Ky., was Robin Nichols (r), state youth associate, Jackson. With him is Wayne Jenkins (l), youth specialist, church training department, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Youth associates met to prepare state strategies for DiscipleLife, a five year plan to increase youth church training involvement.

## Easthaven Will Present "Christmas In Sign"

The sign language class of Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, will present a drama, "Christmas In Sign," Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The story of Christmas will be seen and heard. The public is invited to the drama and the time of fellowship which will follow.

Easthaven began a ministry to the deaf a year ago, when a deaf couple, Randy and Mary Laird, joined its fellowship. Mrs. Bob Leary, Jr., reports, "The love for and desire to communicate with this couple inspired the beginning of classes in sign language."

Classes are taught each Wednesday

at 6 p.m. at the church by Mrs. Mimi Leach, assisted by the Laids. Also Mrs. Leach is interpreter for the deaf during regular worship services.

Earnest Sadler, pastor, and his wife Charlotte are members of the sign language class. Others who would like to participate in the Wednesday night classes in manual communication may do so. The study book is titled A Basic Course in Manual Communication.

## Haitian

## Food . . .

(Continued from page 1)

of bulk food will be prepared at the churches and distributed to those who have stoves at home and to those who come to the refugee office based at Highland Park Baptist Church.

The Haitian pastors "made their own rules," Leach noted. "They decided to require everyone who eats to also help cook and serve." All refugees who eat will receive an identification card in order to prevent anyone "from getting food and then selling it for drugs or some other abuse of the program," Leach reported.

The number of Haitian refugees registering for resettlement is climbing daily, he added. Though immigration officials are not predicting a major influx, the Haitian Baptist community is preparing for it.

"What we really need most now is sponsors," said Leach. "There is no expense involved for the sponsor in relocating the refugees. Interested churches can contact the Home Mission Board for more information."

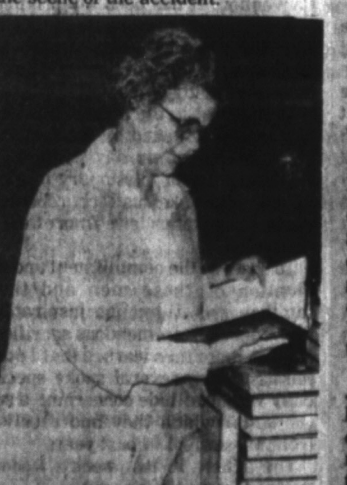
Though he admitted disappointment that the disaster van project failed, Leach emphasized that "if the men from Louisiana hadn't come, I don't think our Haitian churches would have dared to do it on their own. Now they're enthusiastic and committed to do the best they can. I think it was all a part of God's plan."

## Youth Minister's Wife Dies At 28

Mrs. Vic (Heddy Jo) Johnston, age 28, died in a Jackson hospital Nov. 27, following an automobile accident on Nov. 17. Among survivors are her husband, Vic Johnston, minister of youth and activities at First Church, Kosciusko, for the past year and a half; two sons, ages 4 and 2; and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. X. L. Kyzar of McComb.

The funeral was held at First Church, Kosciusko, Ed Gandy, pastor, on Nov. 28.

The accident occurred on an interstate near Brookhaven. A speeding car struck the Johnstons' car from the rear and knocked it off the highway and into the guard rail, and then left the scene of the accident.



Frances Bush of First Church, Columbia, visits the Baptist Book Store exhibit during the convention, and looks at Baptists and the Bible co-authored by her son, L. Russell Bush, professor at Southwestern Seminary.

## 75 Pastors In The West To Get Suits

By Paul Harrell, director, Brotherhood Department  
Over a span of 17 years, Baptist Men of Mississippi have been sending new suits to pastors in the pioneer mission areas of the Northern Plains Convention.

Each year through contributions to this mission endeavor, the number of pastors receiving suits increases. A total of 75 suits to pastors in Wyoming and new pastors in Montana will be mailed this year.

A suit for one pastor will cost \$95.00. This will include not only a suit, but either a shirt or a tie also. These are suits of fine quality, which we can be proud to send to these pastors.

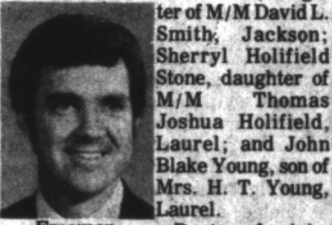
Through contributions that you send, these 75 suits will be sent this year to pastors in Wyoming and Montana. Please mail all checks to the Brotherhood Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Not only does the Brotherhood department thank you for this contribution, but the pastors in the Northern Plains thank you for remembering them.

## Eight Will Get Degrees

Eight students from Mississippi will be among 275 candidates receiving degrees Dec. 19 from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Master of religious education degree recipients will be Pratima Sharad Borde, sponsor: M/M Paul Cockrell, Columbus, Miss., hometown: Maharashtra, India; Paul Howard Gray, son of Mrs. Jean Funderburg, Tupelo; Pamela Jan Matthews, daughter of M/M Edwin M. Matthews, Clinton; Linda Annette Smith, daughter of M/M David L. Smith, Jackson; Sherryl Hollifield Stone, daughter of M/M Thomas Joshua Hollifield, Laurel; and John Blake Young, son of Mrs. H. T. Young, Laurel.



Freeman, Doctor of ministry degree recipients will be Hubert Victor Freeman, formerly associate pastor, First Kosciusko, and Robert Higdon Walker, Jr., son of M/M R. Higdon Walker, Jackson.

## Missionary News Briefs

Thomas and Hazel Barron, missionaries to Indonesia, may be addressed at J.I. Jen Sudirman 39, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

James and Paulette Kellum, missionaries since 1971, resigned from missionary service effective Oct. 31. They served in Vietnam until the Communist takeover in 1975 and then transferred to the Philippines. Both are natives of Mississippi.

Jason and Susan Carlisle, missionaries to Uruguay, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 4233 Carter Circle, Jackson, MS 39209).

James and Dorothy Gilbert, missionaries to Ecuador, may be addressed at Casilla 4725-A, Quito, Ecuador. He was born in White Bluff, Miss., and also lived in Louisiana and Alabama while growing up. She was born in Memphis, Tenn., and lived in several Tennessee and Mississippi towns.

## Quinnellys Are Serving In Nebraska

J. Doss and Patsy Quinnelly have volunteered for service through the Mission Service Corps, a Bold Mission Thrust endeavor, and are serving in Omaha, Nebraska, where he is pastor of the Hillcrest Baptist Church.

The Quinnellys are 1964 and 1965 graduates of Mississippi College. He received a master of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1968. She is a Mississippi native. They have two daughters, Charis, 10, and Chara, 4.

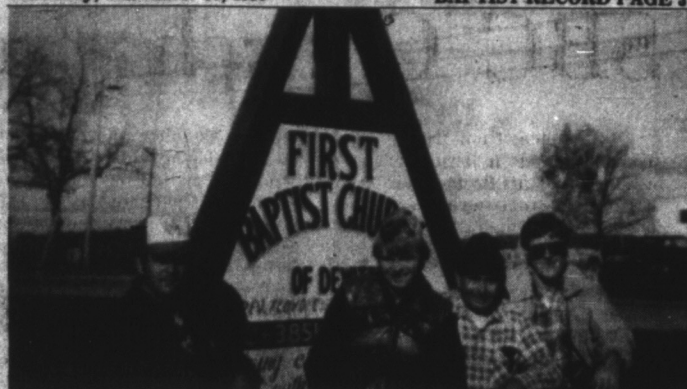
"We are trying to help restore the missionary vision that once existed in this area where the church is located," Quinnelly stated, "and to re-establish Southern Baptist influence within the central city of Omaha. The potential is great, as Hillcrest Church is located in an area where there are more than 150,000 people and the majority of these people are unchurched."

The Quinnellys went to Hillcrest Jan. 1, 1980. At that time the church had 46 active adult members and 12 children. "The church is growing, but much prayer and work are needed," the pastor said.

Churches or individuals who wish to learn more of the Hillcrest Church's needs, and what they may do to help, may write to Hillcrest Baptist Church, 2100 South 51st St., Omaha, Nebraska 68106.

Thursday, December 11, 1980

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3



Wiggins men who worked in Michigan were, left to right: Tim Black, Mike Moore, Ernie Bullen, and Hue Batson.

## Coast Men Add To Church In Michigan

First Baptist Church of DeWitt, Mich. made the decision in September of 1979 to erect a new education building. An architect was secured, blueprints approved, and "faith promises" from the members were made, to give approximately half the amount of the cost of the new building.

With the spring thaw the new building that will accommodate 90 to 100 more people in Sunday School was begun. The church hopes to begin using the new facilities by the middle of December this year. At this point, everything is paid for.

In October 1979, four men went from the Gulf Coast of Mississippi at their own expense to give a week of labor on this building. Hue Batson and Tim Black of First Baptist Church in Wiggins; Mike Moore of Pass Road Church, Gulfport; Ernie Bullen of Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport, were able to see the brick work completely finished and a large portion of the electrical system done while they were in Michigan.

First Baptist of Wiggins, Jim Street, pastor, being made aware of the work of "faith" of First, DeWitt, made the decision to be a part of this labor of love and gave \$5,000 and then borrowed \$3,000 to enable them to send a total of \$8,000 to First, DeWitt for the

project.  
First, DeWitt's pastor, Floyd Hughes, formerly pastor of Olivet Church, Gulf Coast, reports that "it now appears that the new building will be completely filled by the time we occupy it." A temporary building now being used had a total of 78 students in it on Sunday, Oct. 26. Two morning worship services are now being considered due to the fact that the present auditorium is filled to capacity almost every Sunday.

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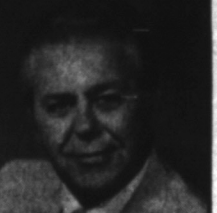


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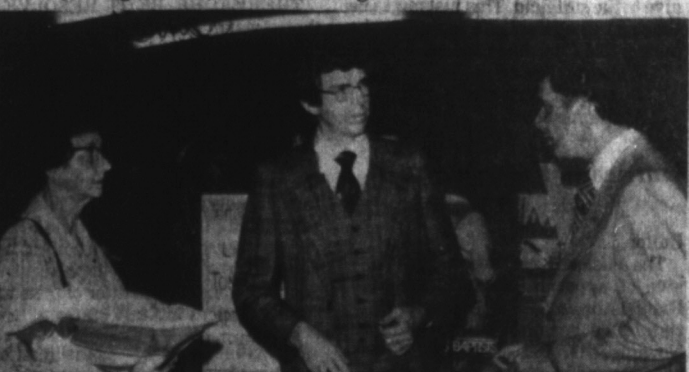
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## Autograph Party Presents Co-Authors

The Baptist Book Store gave an autograph party during the state Baptist convention in November at First Church, Jackson, for Tom Nettles and L. Russell Bush, co-authors of *Baptists and the Bible*. Both Bush and Nettles are Mississippians and professors at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. Left to right are Clyde Nettles of Brandon, an employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board who's Nettles' mother; Nettles; and Bush.



# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

### Pre-filed bills . . .

## Some hold particular interest

At least 106 bills have been pre-filed in the Mississippi State Senate for the session beginning in January, and a number of them should be of interest to Mississippi Baptists.

It is not too early to be in touch with state senators to let them be aware of the attitudes of the voters regarding these bills.

Some of these bills the Baptist Record will be keeping an eye on particularly. Among these will be SB 2072 by Mabry. This is a bill that would reduce the blood alcohol amount which creates a presumption that a person is under the influence of alcohol while driving a motor vehicle. It has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

This bill would presume that a person was under the influence of alcohol if his blood alcohol content were from .05 to .10 percent. If it were above .10 percent he would be presumed to be intoxicated.

There have been efforts for at least the last three years to get such a bill as this passed. There may have been additional reasons why such a bill has never been passed, but one primary reason is House Judiciary Committee A. This bill in the House has been sent to this committee three years running, and for three years it has remained bottled up in the committee with no chance of being passed. H. L. Merideth

has been chairman of this committee, and he has admitted in a statement to the Jackson Daily News that he kept the bill bottled up.

A letter to him from the Baptist Record asking if this were the true case went unanswered.

The bill has been pre-filed in the House again. It is H 89 by Horton, and it has been assigned again to House Judiciary Committee A. This bill needs to come out of this committee with a favorable report this year.

Another bill of particular interest is SB 2029 by Dyer. This is an old, familiar bill that keeps being defeated in the Legislature year after year and keeps coming back. It is sponsored by liquor interests, so it will continue to come back. The substance of the bill is to make lawful the advertising of alcoholic beverages.

This bill needs to be defeated again. Liquor interests are confident their adversaries eventually will go to sleep, and their bill will be passed. There is no reason to allow the advertising of liquor in the state. It is a dry state. Some localities have opted to come out from under the dry status, but that does not alter the dry status. We would be allowing liquor advertising in a dry state if we allow it to happen. We would be allowing the advertising of an illegal substance. We

might as well allow drug advertising.

The primary reason liquor interests would want liquor advertising legal is to seek to get the entire state into a wet status. And a wet status benefits nobody but the people involved in liquor sales. Advertising certainly would create more drinking, else why advertise. The high costs of drinking to all but the liquor sales people are too numerous to list here.

Let liquor interests and the Legislature be aware that the Baptist Record is going to be pushing harder during this session than even before for legislation that would curtail liquor's advance rather than enhance it. The misery and financial loss that this stuff engenders is so staggering as to boggle the imagination.

Another bill of high interest is SB 2060 by Lee and Ellington. This bill would revise the definition of drug "paraphernalia" as used in the Uniform Controlled Substances law. At least four Mississippi cities have passed paraphernalia laws. They are Tupelo, Fulton, Laurel, and Jackson. Others may have also. There is a renewed determination to do something about the dangerous condition of drug abuse. A starting place is in control of the paraphernalia that is used in such abuse. This bill will be in the Judiciary Committee.

SB 2066 by Pittman would set minimum prison terms for certain violations of the controlled substance law and raise the penalties for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana. Judiciary

SB 2067 by Dyer would delete the repealer provision relating to the 3 percent mark up on alcoholic beverages for funding alcoholism treatment and programs. Finance

SB 2068 by Shows would make it unlawful to deliver, bring into the state, or be in possession of specified amounts of certain controlled substances. Judiciary

SB 2085 by May would authorize the Alcoholic Beverage Control division agents to enforce prohibition against possession of light wine and beer in dry counties. Judiciary

SB 2086 by May would broaden the offense of driving a vehicle while intoxicated where a chemical test is given. Judiciary

SB 2090 by Pittman and Shows would make it unlawful to knowingly sell, manufacture, deliver, bring into the state, or be in possession of certain controlled substances. Judiciary

We will be discussing many of these bills in more detail soon. We wanted readers to have information as early as possible even though it may be sketchy.

### Religion in the classroom . . .

## Continues to cause confusion

The practice of religion in connection with the public schools continues to cause confusion. There is no constitutional reason why it can't be practiced. The Supreme Court has never said it couldn't be practiced. Yet politicians make big appeals for support of themselves in order to return religion to the public schools, and lower courts continue to make mistaken rulings on the issue.

The accompanying editorial on this page primarily discusses the pre-filed bills in the Mississippi Senate. The pre-filed bills in the House will be discussed shortly. One bill that has been pre-filed in the House, however, is one that would require, by state government decree that the Ten Commandments be posted in public school classrooms.

This is HB 34 filed "by request" by H. L. Merideth of Greenville. The Jackson weekly newspaper, Capital Reporter, says that the bill was filed by request of former Rep. Tullius Brady of Brookhaven. Brady is quoted as saying he doesn't think the federal

government has any business deciding for the states what they can and cannot do in their classrooms. Recently the Supreme Court ruled that states cannot require the Ten Commandments to be posted. According to the Capital Reporter, Merideth said, "I don't see anything wrong with posting the Ten Commandments . . . If it's unconstitutional, I want to hear the constitutional question discussed."

What the Supreme Court has done again is to say that the states do not have any right to decide for the students what kind of religious exercises are to be carried on. And Merideth is right. There is nothing wrong in posting the Ten Commandments in the public school classrooms. What is wrong is the state's requiring that they be posted there.

The United States Court of Appeals of New York has missed the point 180 degrees by ruling that students could not be allowed to meet on school property before classes for voluntary prayers. The Constitution does not rule out such meetings, and the Supreme

Court has never taken such action either.

The First Amendment to the Constitution says this: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

That simply means that neither the government nor the school authorities acting for the government can require a public school student to participate in religious exercises; and, in fact, the authorities cannot establish religious exercises of any sort. It also means that the authorities cannot prohibit the free and voluntary exercise of religion on the part of the students, and it goes on to say that the students have a right to assemble peaceably.

When all of that is put together it means that the students can gather to pray or worship on the school grounds as long as they do not interfere with school activities and as long as they

are not required to do so by authorities. Any court that would rule out free and voluntary gatherings for prayer would be acting outside the mandates of the Constitution; and any authority that would require religious efforts, such as requiring the posting of the Ten Commandments or using the public address systems for devotionals, would also be outside the bounds of the Constitution. The Ten Commandments may be posted, however, and the students may pray as long as they are not required to do so.

The government seems to be determined to get involved in the practice of religion, however, in spite of attempts by Congress to keep it out. The IRS is going about investigating private schools in Mississippi to determine their racial make-up, but only in Mississippi. They have a federal court order compelling them to do so. This will be discussed in more detail next week, for the school of a Mississippi Baptist church has been targeted for investigation.

### Guest opinion . . .

## Marijuana, its use and effects

By Melinda Mullen

Marijuana is a drug found in the flowering tops and leaves of the Indian hemp plant called cannabis sativa. It is grown in almost every country that has a mild climate.

The intoxicating drug became popular in the United States in 1920. In the mid 1980's authorities reported a sharp increase of its use. "Arrests on marijuana charges have more than doubled since 1980, according to the President's Commission on Crime."

The intoxicating drug became popular in the United States in 1920. In the mid 1980's authorities reported a sharp increase of its use. "Arrests on marijuana charges have more than doubled since 1980, according to the President's Commission on Crime."

A British physician has found evidence of a shrinkage in brain tissues and loss of weight of the brain to sev-

of the Mississippi Woman's Christian Temperance Union to write essays on Marijuana, Its Use and Effects. Several of the winners were Baptist young people. First place was won by Melinda Mullen, a student now at Coniah-Lincoln Junior College. She is

Of Steeples and Wedges



### Christmas: A Time to Help

One Friday I was in west Texas looking at snow on bare mountaintops and the next Friday I was in the middle of Florida, looking at acres of green trees loaded with ripe oranges.

After Thanksgiving dinner with Karen and Tom Dennis in Montgomery, Mama and I drove to Disney World for a brief holiday. We spent a night in Ocala with Boyd Wood, a Baptist preacher, and his wife Mary Ann, without whose aid I'd never have made it through those middle-of-the-night fire drills when I was a college freshman.

Next morning started out fine, with happy fellowship and fresh grapefruit for breakfast. Then I lost my car key. I had put it in my pocket, but it was not there. We all searched car, house, yard; finally I unlocked my suitcase (needlessly, I thought), but there it was — in my robe pocket.

Two hours later we checked into a motel. Then driving off to the Magic Kingdom, I missed the proper exit. The sign said: Disney World, Next Right, but Next Right actually meant This Right. Anyhow, the Next Right was 4½ miles, and then it was 4½ miles back to the Correct Right.

The sun was shining, but the wind was blowing, cold. Where was all that Florida warmth? The line to Snow White Adventures was much too long. The Mickey Mouse Revue had been discontinued.

Late afternoon traffic jammed the monorail, and the train stopped; there we sat, 30 or 40 feet above the ground. "Can we get out?" Mama asked. "I think not," I told her. "It's a long way down." At length we transferred to the shuttle. When all those parking lots loomed ahead, knowledge hit me in the pit of the stomach. I had forgotten to get the name of our lot, or our lane number. When we got to Grumpy, the last of the lots, there was nowhere else to go, so we got off. We didn't see my Toyota. Darkness closed in; we panicked. "I could finish my exercise for the day by walking until I find it," I said. But Mama said she didn't need any more exercise that day; she only wanted to sit down, but where?? The harried parking attendant called a policeman, who kindly asked us to get into his car. He spoke soothingly, "Don't worry. We'll find it." I described the situation where I remembered parking, and he drove us directly there.

Later, at a service station, I stopped

got cold and I couldn't figure how to turn up the heat, so I took a hot bath to get warm. The plug stuck in the tub. In desperation I called the front desk. They sent a nice young man to instruct us in the art of the heating system; while there he offered also to unstap the plug.

As the day ended, Mama and I looked back and found some good things about it—the beautiful setting of palm trees and water, the colorful chrysanthemums, the droves of birds, the fantastic animated characters and music in "Small World." We talked about the fact that no matter what problem arises usually someone will offer aid. "Yes," Mama agreed, "I asked the Lord to help us find the car, and He sent that nice policeman."

What better time than Christmas, I've been thinking this week, than to be one who helps, one who does some giving as well as receiving? I'm indebted to the author, Betty Carlson, for this quote from George Merriam: "However perplexed you may at any hour become about some question of truth, one refuge and resource is always at hand: you can do something for some one besides yourself. When your own burden is heaviest, you can always lighten a little some other burden. At the times when you cannot see God, there is still open to you this sacred possibility to show God: for it is the love and kindness of human hearts, through which the divine reality comes home to men, whether they name it or not. Let this thought, then, stay with you; there may be times when you cannot find help, but there is no time when you cannot give help."

### Worldbeat

RICHMOND—Pray that God will give foreign missionaries good health. Also pray that God will give them strength needed to resist or recover rapidly from the various diseases which plague them.

Pray that God will call out leaders from among the Christians in Upper Volta.

Pray for the weekly story hour and the class for new Christians in Tukuyu, Tanzania, which missionaries Olan and Lynn Burrow teach at the Baptist Bible School.

Pray that missionaries Roger and Betty Cole may be able to reach many





Wheeler Grove saw 43 youths and their teachers present for youth high attendance day on Oct. 26. This was the largest youth department Sunday School attendance in the church's history. The teachers are Larry and Cindy Lemonds (second row, left); Molly Taylor (third row, second from right); Ed Settle (back row, right); and Gregg Thomas, associate pastor and minister of youth (front row, fifth from right).

## Growth Explosion Hits Wheeler Grove Youths

The youth department (7th grade-college) of Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, has experienced a growth explosion during the past six months. Gregg Thomas, associate pastor and minister of youth, states that the average Sunday School attendance in the department has increased from 16 in April to 36 in October, including an attendance of 43 on Sunday, Oct. 26, which set a record as the largest youth department Sunday School attendance in the history of Wheeler Grove. That Sunday culminated a month-long recruitment campaign led by Thomas and the teachers.

Thomas said that the idea for a recruitment month campaign came during the summer. "I knew that football is a major event in the lives of many teenagers during the fall so why not build a Sunday School promotion around a football theme." Using the youths as "scouts," "managers," and "assistant coaches," and coordinating a major visitation and outreach campaign with the teachers, there were 10 new teenagers enrolled in Sunday School during the month. This included five on Oct. 26.

Thomas said that when he came to

the church in April, he found a group of youths concerned about spiritual growth and about reaching others, and a church concerned about youth.

Involving the young people in the work of the church is something else that Wheeler Grove is doing. "Young people have a lot of ability that they can give to the Lord's work if we'll just let them," said Thomas. "The Lord has led in organizing a beginner worship service for preschoolers and children's worship service for the kids in grades 1-6. These worship services take place during the regular adult worship hour on Sunday mornings."

Two teams of four teenagers each work in the beginner service. Each team works for three months and then has a three-month break while the other team works. This allows them an opportunity to minister but at the same time allows them to participate at least half the year in the regular adult worship service. "These teenagers do a great job with the kids and are really enthusiastic about getting to work in the church," according to Thomas. Two of the older teenagers assist Thomas and another adult in the children's service.

The Sharrett Brothers will be in concert at the McDowell Road Church, Jackson, Dec. 14, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. Johnny E. Speedling, Jr. is associate pastor and minister of music.

The Chancel Choir of Alta Woods Church, Jackson, directed by Gary Anglin, will present a Living Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary of the church Sunday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

The specially designed tree has been built inside the sanctuary and will hold approximately 80 singers. The choir will be accompanied by a 15-piece instrumental ensemble and will be singing old and new Christmas selections. There will be no charge. The public is invited. Charles Myers is the pastor.

The Sanctuary Choir of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will present "Noel, Jesus is Born," by Lanny Wolfe, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. "Noel" is a presentation depicting the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. Wolfe has said that he did not sit down with the intention of writing a Christmas musical, but each song came to him in a strange and mysterious way. From a phrase that came from a religious tract, from a phrase on a Christmas card, from a sermon, and from a chorus that he had written several years ago; but never had he been able to use it in any specific way.

The 95-voice choir, along with 32 pieces from the Jackson Symphony, will present the program. Bill Barnes is minister of music and Kermit D. McGregor is pastor.

The Sharretts will be in concert at First Church, Crystal Springs, on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m.

Fred and Ed Sharrett are twins; their brother Bob is two years younger. Together, they form a trio with harmony reminiscent of the Lettermen and the Four Freshmen.

Having started singing together at the age of five, the brothers have been singing together for over 20 years.

There will be no admission charged; the public is invited.

Driver's Flat Baptist Church, Banner, honored their "over 60" members Sunday morning Nov. 23.

Each woman was presented a red rose corsage and each man a white rose. These were pinned on by the "Younger than 60" group.

Sunday evening at 6 p.m. the younger group escorted each older member to dinner and singing at the church.

This meeting was such a success that the church voted to honor their "Over 60" group the Sunday before Thanksgiving each year.

Mamon Morris is pastor.



Calvary Church, Scott County, was the setting for the wedding of Sir Floyd Barfield, age 95, and Pearl Moore, age 68. Jerry Lundy, pastor, officiated. Mrs. Virginia Registes of Morton was her mother's attendant. Major Floyd Tucker, Forest, was his grandfather's best man. (Barfield was ordained a deacon in 1920, and is still an active deacon at Calvary, having received a plaque in appreciation for his long years of service.)

Five generations of the groom's family attended the wedding and reception. Guests included Mrs. Clara Conlee and Mrs. Audie Steen, daughters of the groom, and Mrs. Laura Felts, granddaughter, with her sons Jeff and Lee.

"The Many Moods of Christmas," a special presentation by the Parkway, Jackson, Sanctuary Choir accompanied by the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20; and again at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21.

The music, featuring the 120-voice choir, will be staged at Parkway Church, 2603 W. Capitol St., Jackson.

The presentation, with arrangements by Robert Shaw and Robert Russell Bennett, will feature four suites of familiar Christmas carols.

The program will also include living Christmas cards depicting the varied traditions of the season, tableaux, and a multi-media presentation by Parkway's drama ministries and will conclude with a congregational candle-lighting service.

Pascagoula's Calvary Church will present the dramatic musical, "An Old Fashioned Christmas," Sunday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in their sanctuary, 2101 Market Street. This is to be a joint production by Calvary's music and dramatic organizations, including adult and children's choirs.

The musical will be presented in old-fashioned style dating back to 1883. Live scenes will be presented on portable stages; the choir will be attired in 1800 apparel.

Mrs. Sandia Goodin Gautier and Byron (Buddy) Mathis will play leading roles in the drama.

Mrs. Byron Mathis will direct the sanctuary choir and production. Mrs. Florence McClamroch will serve as chairman of the drama committee. Children's choir leaders are Mrs. Sam Waters and Mrs. Patrick Upton. Accompanists are Mrs. Sam Waters, pianist, and Mrs. Vickie Broadus, organist. Byron Mathis is pastor.

Grandview Church, Pearl, will have a living nativity scene, Dec. 13 from 7-9 p.m. The public is invited to drive up and view the scene and hear the Christmas story in song and scripture. There is no charge.

## Names In The News

Jack O. Ferguson, George Brannon, and John Meerman were ordained Oct. 28 as deacons at Wayside Church, Yalobusha County. Charles Jones presented the charge to the deacons. John Martin presented the charge to the church; Carl Hayes, pastor of Wayside, delivered the ordination sermon.

Victor C. Johnson, who retired Jan. 29, 1980, and served as pastor of Cranfield Church, Adams County, through September, 1980, has moved to his retirement home at Plantation Shores, Rankin County. He is available for supply preaching, interim pastorates, or revivals. His phone number is 845-8561. His address is Route 6, Box 281B, Florence, MS 39073.



Barbara and John W. Landrum

Paul Harvey during one November broadcast said: "You can't keep a good man down. J. W. Landrum pastored Baptist churches for thirty years, most recently in Kirkwood, Mo., until a disabling illness confined him to home, but did not diminish his ministry—in fact, expanded it. Now he and Mrs. Landrum keep up a letter-writing ministry. They write once a month letters to 1,500 people in nursing homes—and for most of whom that's the only mail they ever receive." The Landrums live at 1019 Tanglewood Drive, Clinton. Their "Least of These" ministry is supported by First Church, Clinton, and interested individuals.



Cindy Malone and Kenny Mann have joined their talents, to be available in duo for religious concerts, retreats, seminars for young ladies on the inner self and outer self, fellowships, banquets, and school assemblies.

Cindy has sung in churches and conventions in Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas. Currently, she is the reigning Miss Mississippi College and was selected for Who's Who in Colleges and Universities. She was in the top ten finalists in Miss Mississippi, 1980.

A senior at Mississippi College, she is the daughter of Byron R. Malone, pastor of Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, and Mrs. Malone.

Kenny Mann, a high school senior in Jackson, was recently selected as "most talented" at Jim Hill High School. He accompanies Cindy at the piano. He was a Mississippi State Teen Talent Winner in 1980, and a finalist in National Teen-Talent in Dallas, Texas in 1980. He has been the featured piano soloist for numerous churches and revivals.

Any churches that would like to book the couple may do so by calling Byron Malone at (601) 373-8301 or (601) 372-5141.

New Hope, Monticello, ordained Earl Catt as a deacon, Nov. 16. He is married to the former Irene Davis of Monticello. They have one son.

Mrs. Mary Roberts Moore of Route 2, Newton, died Tuesday, Dec. 2, at Rankin General Hospital, Brandon, at age 85. The funeral was held Dec. 4 at Liberty Baptist Church, Newton County, where she was a member. J. B. Costlow and T. L. Everett officiating. Mrs. Moore was born in Leake County, Miss., Aug. 31, 1895.

Survivors include four daughters: Mrs. Lou Ella Tucker, Brandon; Mrs. Nettie M. Jones, Plant City, Fla.; Mrs. Mattie Eva Moore, Shreveport, La.; Mrs. Nell M. Godwin, Newton; six sons: Ewell C. Moore, Kosciusko; J. Kelva Moore, Newton; W. Levon Moore, Kosciusko; Elton Moore, Brandon; Ned Moore, Mayfield, Ky.; W. Mark Moore, Brandon; two sisters; 24 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Liberty Church, Carroll County, honored Mrs. Onyx Heath on Oct. 12. Mrs. Heath retired as church clerk and treasurer after 42 years of continuous service. (Also she taught Sunday School during the same period of time.)

The WMU placed red gladioli in the church in honor of Mrs. Heath. The older children's class presented her with a corsage. The youth gave her a book of memories. Young adults gave her a pot plant.

Ernest Hatchcock, pastor, reviewed the church history and growth during the years Mrs. Heath was an officer. Mr. and Mrs. John Gray of Banner sang a duet. Gray, pastor, told of the inspiration Mrs. Heath was to him as a young man beginning his ministry at Liberty.

After the morning message the pastor gave Mrs. Heath a framed copy of a resolution of appreciation from the church and an engraved watch, a gift from the church.



Mount Comfort Church, Calhoun County, Bruce, burned the note Nov. 16 on its new education building. A large crowd was in attendance. Also the sanctuary has been refurbished. Now all church property and buildings are free of debt. Left to right, at the ceremony, are Leon Todd, chairman of deacons; Marvin Bibb, director of missions, Calhoun County; Barry Ward, pastor; Clark Wilson; and John Thomas Campbell.



The Senior Adult Choir of First Church, Sardis, Panola Association, presented a musical, "Count On Us," Nov. 9.

Twenty senior adults rehearsed for over two months. They sang to a packed house, and received a standing ovation. Pictured—Front row, left to right: Pauline Watson, Tenell Blakely, Virgie Towles, Dolly Atkins, Mary Florence Johnson, Leona Cleland, Louise Cline. Second row: Mary Still, Margaret Granger, Virgil Durham, Eleanor Goodnight, Sarah High, Anna Maye Dees, Lillian Heiderhoff. Third row: Billy W. Bowie, minister of music, director; Mary C. Carter, accompanist; Hollis Nabors, Kenneth Hornbeck, R. W. Dees, Wayne Cleland, Earl Heiderhoff, and Bill Goodnight. Bill Cox is pastor.

Northwest Hills Church, Jackson, is changing its name and location. The new name is Cherry Park Church and new location is 1701 Old Vicksburg Road, Clinton, MS 39056 (phone 924-4502).

The church will hold a dedication service and open house at its new location Dec. 14. The public is invited. The pastor, Robert McDonald, will speak at the dedication service at 11 a.m. E.

C. Harpe will bring special music. Open house will be from 2 until 5 p.m.

## Staff Changes

Joe H. Ratcliff, pastor of North McComb Baptist Church, McComb, has resigned effective Dec. 14 to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Many, La. He has been pastor in McComb for eight years.

The Ratcliff family will leave McComb as the school holidays begin for Christmas.



The Brashers

Dudley Brasher has accepted a call as music director of New Hope Church, Tupelo, in Lee County. Lyndie Davis, pastor. He and his wife, the former Linda Ogg of Okolona, have two children, Lore Gale and Brian Lee.

Brad Hodges has joined the staff of Emmanuel Church, Greenville, as associate pastor, minister of music and youth. A native of Winona, he came to Greenville from Salem Church, Collins.

Albert McMullen is new pastor of First Baptist Church, Stonewall. He moved from Evergreen Baptist Church, Winston County. McMullen's first Sunday was Nov. 23. His new address is P. O. Box 218, Stonewall, MS 39063. His phone number is 659-9659 (home) or 659-7006 (office).



McMullen

A whole Christ for my salvation; A whole Bible for my staff; A whole church for my fellowship; A whole world for my parish. — Chrysostom

Wade Church has called H. A. (Junior) Wilks as pastor. Wilks, a native of Pascagoula, is married to the former Lanelle Harper, also of Pascagoula. The couple have four children, Tony 15, Tina 11, Kristy 7, and Patricia 4.

Wilks has attended Clarke College and Blue Mountain College. He leaves the position of pastor of Palmer Church, Ripley.

Allen Mullan has resigned as pastor of the Locke Station Church, Panola County. He is to begin work in a pioneer mission church in West Virginia.

Leonard Russell has resigned the pastorate of Good Hope Church, Panola County, in order to enroll at Blue Mountain College.

## CLASSIFIED

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PRINCIPAL—First Baptist School of Little Rock, Arkansas is seeking a certified Elementary Principal for new school (K-6) to open September 1981. Contact Richard Browning, Business Manager, First Baptist Church, 62 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72212. Telephone (501) 227-0010.

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## Publishing House Celebrates 75th With Eye on the World

By Mike Livingston

EL PASO, Texas (BP)—As the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, marks its 75th anniversary, general director Aldo Broda has a clear view of mission work to the south.

Before Broda became the first national to head the publishing house in 1977, he had worked for 10 years with the Baptist Publishing Board in his native Argentina. Today, from his office in the foothills of El Paso's Franklin Mountains, he has a broader view of the literature ministry.

"We've got to keep our eye on the local church but we've got to see the rest of the world, too," declares Broda, who is more comfortable speaking through an interpreter.

When he talks about seeing the rest of the world as a publishing house ministry, Broda isn't just talking about the other Spanish-speaking areas where Southern Baptists have no missionaries. He's also talking about areas where the national language might be French, Dutch, or even English. And he's talking about Spanish-speaking areas "where missionaries are serving but there are people outside the church who still are not being reached."

Since Casa Bautista de Publicaciones was begun in the kitchen of J. E. Davis, missionary serving in Toluca, Mexico, in January 1905, it has primarily published Christian curriculum literature. Although the publishing house printed a Bible in 1916, it did not print another complete New Testament for 50 years.

But today there are many new dimensions to the work and some of the most exciting chapters of the publishing house have been written since Broda came to El Paso. Still, he would rather look ahead to challenges than look back on accomplishments.

Some of Broda's short-term goals include expanding the market for French literature, a surface the publishing house only scratched about five years ago. He wants to streamline U.S. distribution of publishing house materials and in October 1981 the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville will assume responsibility for the distribution of all Baptist Spanish Publishing House materials in this country.

An exciting goal of Broda's lies in his approach to reaching those outside the church in countries where missionaries are serving. He plans "to attack the secular market with a line of popular books with a Christian perspective" in hopes of increasing

sales to that market by 10 percent every year for the next three years.

"We already have about 200 books on the market under a different trademark—Mundo Hispano—and some of the books already are making inroads into the secular market," said Broda.

Among the employees of the publishing house Broda has a reputation for being sensitive to the needs of others and the reputation is spreading to other Baptist Spanish publishing houses. He says publishing houses in

Argentina, Spain, Chile and Brazil have agreed to enter a partnership with his shop.

And as the head of the world's largest publishing house of Christian literature in the Spanish language, producing more than six million tracts, one million books, and 31 different periodicals annually, Broda knows the power of the printed page.

On a more personal level, he knows it even better: his entire family was converted through reading the Bible without any other contact.



Ground was broken Nov. 21 for a new office building and chapel at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso. Participants in the service were, left to right, Don Kammerdiener, Thomas W. Hill, Clark Scanlon, all with the Foreign Mission Board; Joe Trull, pastor, First Baptist Church, El Paso, and chairman of the Middle America and Caribbean Committee of the Foreign Mission Board; Aldo Broda of Argentina, present director of the Publishing House; and Judson Blair of the Publishing House staff, interpreter for the service. Hill, a former Mississippian, preceded Broda as director. Also on program, but not pictured, were W. W. Graves, FMB field representative for the Caribbean area, and Frank Patterson, director of the Publishing House, 1943-1970. (Photos by Anne McWilliams)



Thomas W. Hill, right, autographs a copy of his book, *Rivers of Ink*. His wife, the former Cornice Winter, left, is a native of Grenada and a graduate of Mississippi College. Hill, director of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House, 1970-77, is now on the Foreign Mission Board staff in Richmond. Roberta Ryan, Alabama author and missionary, center background, served in Chile, before transferring to El Paso.

## Mississippians Serve At Spanish Book House

By Anne McWilliams

Dorothy Gilbert Hicks Pettit recently received a plaque, in appreciation for her 22 years of service at the Foreign Mission Board's Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, where she is director of the art department.

Born in Meridian, she studied at Blue Mountain, and then at Baylor, met Marlin Hicks, son of a Mississippi pastor, O. C. Hicks, and married him in a ceremony performed at 15th Avenue Church, Meridian, by Lowrey Comper. She and Hicks served as missionaries in Chile. When he died in 1957, their children were ages 4, 6, and 8. For a short time she taught English at Clarke College and worked with the Mississippi WMU, before continuing her work as a missionary, this time in El Paso.

In 1968 she married Max Pettit, pastor, teacher, and photographer, who had served as a missionary to China, Taiwan, and the Philippines. Though she stayed on, doing identically the same work with the publishing house, she resigned as a missionary of the Board when she married, exchanging, she said, "a halo for a wedding band." (The publishing house has 89 employees from 13 countries, in addition to 35 missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board.)

Mary Jo Stewart will in January become director of the Church Missions department of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House.

A Poplarville, Miss., native, she was appointed in 1972 as a missionary to Ecuador, and transferred to El Paso two years ago, where she has been editing GA, RA, and YWA magazines in the Spanish language.

The department she will be directing produces seven missionary periodicals. At least 45 writers, missionaries and nationals from South America, are used for each of the magazines.

Miss Stewart was graduated from University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. Before going to Ecuador, she had been executive secretary of WMU in the Northwest Baptist Convention, 1962-69, and executive secretary, WMU, Arizona, 1969-72.

During November she was a participant in a children's curriculum planning conference. For nine days she and three other women worked out themes, goals, and Bible concepts to be presented in 156 lessons for 9, 10, and 11-year-olds. A total of 572 lessons were planned in the conference for children from birth to age 11.

As a result of frequent trips to various South American countries, she has on display in her office a collection of Latin dolls and other curios.



Dot Hicks Pettit



Mary Jo Stewart

### Devotional

## The Names of Jesus

By John E. Barnes, Jr., Pastor, Main Street, Hattiesburg

Isaiah 9:6

"Thou shalt call His name Jesus" (Matthew 1:21), "thou shalt call His name Immanuel" (Matthew 1:23), and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Such are the names given by God to His Son.

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches (Proverbs 22:1). A good name is better than precious ointment (Ecclesiastes 7:1).

The name Jesus was to be the name by which the Savior was to be known. The other six names given through Isaiah hundreds of years before Jesus was born were for descriptive purposes. Notice them.

#### I. "Wonderful"

1. Jesus was wonderful in His birth (Matthew 1:23).
2. He was wonderful in His teachings (Matthew 7:28).
3. He was wonderful in the things He did (Matthew 21:15).
4. He was wonderful in His love (2 Samuel 1:26 and John 15:13. Sum it all up (Job 42:3).

#### II. "Counsellor" (Proverbs 1:14). The world today needs His counsel.

III. "Mighty God"—What the Messiah was to do could only be done by God Almighty. He was to redeem mankind; vanish death and sin; triumph over Satan; be a meritorious sacrifice. He said "I and my Father are One" (John 10:30). Another name given Jesus was Emmanuel which means "God with us." Also read John 1:14.

IV. "Everlasting Father"—The distinction in the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—is not revealed in this scripture. The term Father means Protector (Job 29:16). Read also John 8:58.

V. "Prince of Peace" (Luke 2:14). Truly Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Read Romans 5:1. During this Christmas season, may the Prince of Peace reign supreme in every heart.



Barnes

## Uniform Lesson

### John Prepares the Way

By Jack Glaze, chairman,

Division of Religion, MC  
BASIC PASSAGE: Malachi 3:1-5,  
4:5-6; Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 3:1-12;  
11:7-15; 17:9-12.

FOCAL PASSAGE: Matthew 3:1-12  
Lesson Background: The period of oral transmission of the Gospel had passed. Mark, the earliest of canonical gospels (c. 70 A.D.), began his simple vivid narrative account with the appearance of John the Baptist. With the passing of the years, doctrinal problems began to spring up in the young church, and the Holy Spirit guided the pen of Matthew to formulate a more systematic and theological narrative of the Messiah-King.

Matthew, the most Jewish of the Gospels, began by presenting the royal lineage and divine origin of Jesus. He also demonstrated how Scriptures were fulfilled in His birth and infancy. Then, following a period of nearly 30 years of silence, he set the stage for the ministry of the Messiah. The long prophetic silence in Israel was broken and John the Baptist appeared. He was the last of the succession of prophets of the Old Covenant (Matthew 11:13), and came as the forerunner of the Messiah (Micah 3:2). The stage was set for the advent of the New Age.

I. The Wilderness Preacher (3:1-4). The introduction to John is brief: "In those days came John the Baptist." It seems that John was well known and needed no introduction. This implies that the Gospel was directed primarily to the church. The "days" refer to the time of Jesus, for John is important only as he relates to the Messiah.

The "wilderness of Judea" was a large area of eastern Judea running northward from the Dead Sea. The land was not cultivated; however, much was suitable for grazing. Traditionally the wilderness stood for the simplicity of life (cf. wilderness wanderings under Moses) as over against the corruption of urban society.

Matthew gave major attention to John's message; however, he did describe his dress and life style. John's clothes were of camel's hair (v. 4) gathered by a leather girdle. His dress and common Eastern diet of insect-like "locusts" and "wild honey" likened him to Elijah (cf. 2 Kings 1:8). Another link was forged in the "teaching gospel": Malachi had prophesied that God would send Elijah before the coming of the "bread of life" (Mal. 4:5). Elijah had come!

#### II. The Preparation for the King

(Matthew 3:3). Matthew took another step in his fulfillment theme. Isaiah 40:3 was addressed to the Babylonian exiles; God would provide a way back home. Now Matthew applied the principle to John's task of preparing the way for Jesus who was coming to save his people. (The Bible always reveals God taking the initiative in man's salvation. Man does not discover God. It is God who comes to man.)

In the ancient Near East the roads were bad. Travel was an adventure to be avoided if possible. An old proverb indicates three states of misery: "sickness, fasting, and travel." The few surfaced roads were originally built for a king's use and were known as "the king's highway." They were repaired when the king decided to travel. Before the arrival of the monarch a message was sent to local areas so that the king's highway might be prepared for his arrival. John was preparing the way for the King. He was calling attention, not to himself, but to the coming One.

III. The Preaching (Matthew 3:2, 5-12). John called the people to repentance, which meant a change of mind and life style (cf. Luke 3:10-14). The call was based on the approaching Kingdom of Heaven (v. 2). Entrance into the Kingdom, the place of God's sovereign rule (cf. Matthew 5:10), required total submission to the will of God.

After generations of prophetic silence, the news of John's preaching spread over Judea, and many came confessing their sins and were baptized (v. 8). Although the exact procedure of baptism is not expressed, the significance of the word ("depth," "to dip" or "to immerse"), coupled with Paul's analogy of being "buried" with Christ (Romans 6:4) seemingly implies immersion.

John's emphasis, however, was on repentance rather than the mode of baptism. Baptism in itself had no saving value, for it was refused those who did not bring forth fruits of repentance (v. 7-8).

The message contained both a threat of judgment (vv. 7, 10) and the hope of deliverance (v. 11). The fire of judgment (vv. 10, 12) on sin was imminent, while the blessedness of the coming one was at hand.

Physical descent was excluded as a means of salvation (v. 9). Being a Jew meant privilege and responsibility; however, it did not guarantee salvation. Citizenship in God's kingdom

came by faith (new birth) and not by flesh (physical birth). John also anticipated that Gentiles would form a part of the Kingdom when he said that God was able to raise up children from the stones (v. 9b).

John's message pointed beyond himself to one greater than he. He considered himself to be unworthy even to be his slave and untie his shoes (v. 11). Furthermore, the Messiah's baptism would be superior to John's water baptism (outward symbol) for he would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (v. 11b). The gift of the Spirit would come to every Christian to give direction and meaning to the new life in Christ. Christ's baptism would be with inner power energizing the total person.

Lesson Applied: Following the temptation experience, Jesus began his public ministry preaching and said, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:17). The message was the same; however, there was a difference in perspective. John's call for repentance was because the kingdom was about to come. Jesus' call for repentance was because the kingdom was a present reality. John's message weighed heavily on the side of judgment; Jesus' message balanced judgment with salvation.

John baptized those who confessed their sins. Repentance requires a turning away from specific sins, not just confessing sin in general.

John's task was to remove barriers so that the people could see, hear, and recognize the Messiah. In so doing, he rejoiced in taking a secondary position and magnifying the Lord. Today this still remains a crucial task for God's people: "He must increase and I must decrease" (John 3:30).

Paul understood the importance of John's attitude and exhorted the Philippians to follow the example of Christ himself: "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven, and on earth and under the earth" (Phil. 2:5-10 RSV).

## Life and Work Lesson

### Jesus Is Lord of All

Basic Passage: Luke 8:1-56

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This concluding unit of study for this quarter is on the general theme, "Who is Jesus?" The unit focuses on the truth that although Jesus is Lord of all, He also is the suffering servant portrayed by Isaiah.

The use of the term "Lord" was not an invention of the early church. Such a term enjoyed wide use before the time of Jesus. It always expressed the idea of authority and was especially used as an official title of Roman Emperors. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, it is the regular word used for the covenant name for God. Of all the titles of Jesus, the title "Lord" is the most commonly used and the most theologically important in the New Testament.

Chapter 8 of Luke includes the parable of the sower. Then it presents some of Jesus' mighty works to show that He was Lord over nature, demons, disease and death.

Following the incident of the last study in the house of Simon the Pharisee, Jesus and His apostles made a preaching tour of Galilee. It was most likely back in Capernaum that He spent the next day teaching the multitudes. Likely about mid-afternoon of that day, Jesus and the apostles proceeded to cross the Sea of Galilee. This initiated a series of incidents in which Jesus demonstrated His power or lordship over various areas of life.

#### I. Lord over Nature (8:22-25)

Luke tells this story with an extraordinary economy of words, and yet with an extraordinary vividness. It was no doubt for much needed rest and quiet that Jesus decided to cross the Sea of Galilee. As they proceeded he fell asleep. It was a lovely thing to think of the sleeping Jesus. He was tired just as we become tired. He, too, could reach the point of exhaustion when the claim of sleep is imperative. He trusted his men. They were skilled fishermen and thoroughly familiar with the lake. And then the storm came. The Sea of Galilee is famous for its sudden squalls. The sea is in a bowl-like depression almost seven hundred feet below sea level. Strong winds rush down the slopes and churn the waters into foaming uproar.

It is a question whether the more important point of this incident is the display of Christ's power or the lack of the disciples' faith. Perhaps the latter

needs emphasis. When they embarked Jesus said, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." He did not say, "the middle." He did not say, "Let us go out and sink." He meant what he said. The disciples are typical of us.

The story provides a powerful portrait of the humanity and deity of Jesus Christ. He was so exhausted He could sleep in a small boat tossing violently and wet with spray. Yet when He awoke, He spoke the word, and there was a calm. It was but another stage in the self-revelation of Jesus to His followers. And we must not forget that He who ruled the winds and waves can control our lives. Wherever Jesus is, the storm becomes a calm.

#### II. Lord Over Demons (8:26-39)

Jesus and His disciples soon arrived in the country of the Gadarenes. The demoniac, who abode in the tombs, met Jesus. He had been demon possessed for an extended period and wore no clothing. Yet, as soon as he came to Jesus, he fell before Him, as the demon with a great voice asked, "What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not." Luke explains the demon's request by indicating that Jesus commanded the unclean spirit to depart. The extreme physical condition was brought by the demonic powers (vs. 29). To bind the poor man with chains and fetters was an impossibility.

Jesus then addressed the man with the question, "What is thy name?" The man replied, "Legion." The shackled man realized that he was possessed by many demons, which then began begging Jesus that He not send them back into the abyss, the present abode of demons. Their very nature caused them to desire to infect some man or animal; and inasmuch as a herd of hogs fed on the mountain, they exhorted Jesus to send them into the swine. Jesus answered their request, and the infested swine ran violently into the sea. The action of the swine was clearly unnatural. The keepers of the swine then fled to the city and related the details of the swine's drownings and the demoniacs healing. Curiosity seekers quickly came to the wilderness area and found the demoniac robed, relaxed, and rational at the feet of Jesus.

The miracle produced different results on various groups. The Gadarenes came to Jesus and asked Him to leave their country. The demoniac, on the contrary, desired to remain with Jesus, but Jesus sent him

away, commanding him to go into his own house and there reveal what God had done for him. A sad note falls on the joyous scene when Luke tells us that Jesus never returned to the country of the Gadarenes.

#### III. Lord Over Disease and Death

Jesus had been asked to leave the region of the Gadarenes, but he was welcomed back to Capernaum by great crowds (vs. 40). Here, then, evolves a story within a story. Suddenly through the crowd came a man with a great need (vs. 41). He was Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue. He fell down before Jesus and kept begging that Jesus would come to his house. He had an only daughter, about 12 years of age, who was dying. As Jesus responded to his appeal and started for the house the people kept pressing about Him.

In that crowd was a woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years (vs. 43). It was an incurable disease. Meanwhile, the people pressed upon Him, and the woman with the long history of hemorrhage touched Jesus' garment. Her faith was honored as it drew His power, and she was cured. Jesus made inquiry about the touch doubtless to enable the woman to acknowledge the source of her healing. Trembling, she acknowledged the touch, and Jesus proceeded to Jairus' house and in spite of the appearance of being too late, He called the little girl to life again.

To complete the picture Jesus ordered that she be fed. Doubtless her illness had left her weak. Unlike Peter's mother-in-law, who was healed of a fever, her strength did not return miraculously. Jesus, by divine power over death, restored her to life. But He would permit her to be strengthened by natural means.

And then Jesus strongly told them not to tell what He had done. Plummer makes an interesting comment in this regard. "It was given more probably for the parents' sake, to keep them from letting the effect of this great blessing evaporate in vainglorious gossip. To thank God for it at home would be far more profitable than talking about it abroad." Even if this is true, we may be sure that this couple and their precious daughter never forgot the touch of the Master's hand.

Four of the great fears of people are natural disaster, evil spirits, illness, and death. Jesus is Lord over all!

